CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

73 4280/S

1 OCT 1973

we sike

The Honorable John C. Stennis Chairman, Committee on Armed Services United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The following is a status report on CIA's activities with respect to the former Lao irregular forces, as promised in my Tetter of 28 July 1973 to Acting Chairman Symington.

The physical integration of the Lao irregulars into the Royal Lao Armed Forces has been completed. Several administrative problems continue to exist within the Lao Armed Forces themselves. These involve such matters as final determination on the career status of ex-irregular commissioned and noncommissioned officers and final disposition of irregular personnel who are physically or otherwise not qualified for the Royal Lao Armed Forces. A more important administrative problem is the necessity for the U.S. Government to continue to pay salaries and subsistence to the ex-Lao irregular forces until the total Royal Laos Armed Forces personnel strength, including ex-irregulars, is reduced to 50,000 men in FY 74.

FAR forces have in past years been funded through the FEOF supported Royal Lao budget which has been sufficient for a total Royal Lao Armed Forces personnel strength of approximately 50,000 men. The integration of the irregulars has raised the total Laos force level to approximately 73,000. Present plans call for a reduction of total force strength to 60,000 as of 1 January 1974 and 50,000 on or before 30 June reductions because of the Royal Lao Government need to retain negotiations. Our best estimate is that the negotiations will future. Lao Armed Forces reductions should commence shortly thereafter.

(EXECUTIVE RECISITY FILE

2-2

25)

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

Letter to:

The Honorable John C. Stennis

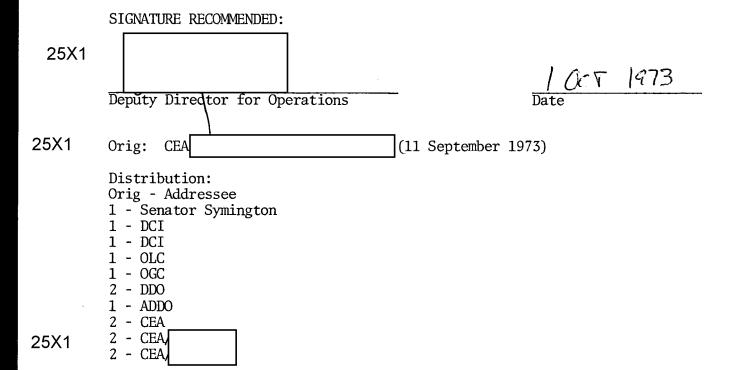
Chairman,

Committee on Armed Services

United States Senate Washington, D.C. 20510

cc: The Honorable Stuart Symington

United States Senate



Approved For Release 2005/03/30 : CIA-RDP80M01048A000400110009-9
25X1

Next 39 Page(s) In Document Exempt